

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

A complete listing of the claims is as follows:

Claim 1. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear comprising:

an upper;

a bottom assembly;

the upper comprising a liner assembled together along a first longitudinal assembly seam and a second vertical or substantially vertical assembly seam, both said seams being arranged on a lateral side of the upper of the article of footwear and being the only seams for assembling the liner together.

Claim 2. (*Original*) An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein:

the upper comprises a heel stiffener arranged on an exterior of said upper.

Claim 3. (*Original*) An article of footwear according to claim 2, wherein:

the upper comprises a heel area;

an outer gusset in the heel area adapted to receive the heel stiffener.

Claim 4. (*Original*) An article of footwear according to claim 3, wherein:

foam is housed within the gusset, between the upper and the heel stiffener.

Claim 5. (*Currently Amended*) An article of footwear according to claim 4, wherein:

the upper ~~is made of~~ comprises an extensible and ventilated material.

Claim 6. (*Currently Amended*) An article of footwear according to claim 5, wherein:

the extensible and ventilated material of the upper is covered by an outer protective layer made of a fine mesh type of material in a front portion of the upper.

Claim 7. (*Currently Amended*) An article of footwear according to claim 6, wherein:
the outer protective layer is attached to the extensible and ventilated material of the
upper in an area of the bottom assembly.

Claim 8. (*Original*) An article of footwear according to claim 6, wherein:
the outer protective layer extends from a front to an area of the gusset.

Claim 9. (*Original*) An article of footwear according to claim 7, wherein:
the outer protective layer extends from a front to an area of the gusset.

Claim 10. (*Currently Amended*) An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein:
two tightening quarters are arranged on medial and lateral sides of the upper,
respectively, each of the tightening quarters being attached at a lower end to the upper in an area of
the bottom assembly, and each of the tightening quarters [[is]] being provided at an upper end with
lacing guides.

Claim 11. (*Original*) An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein:
a shock absorbing sole is arranged on the exterior of the upper, between the upper
and the bottom assembly.

Claim 12. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear according to claim 10, wherein:
the two tightening quarters are assembled to the liner by seams.

Claim 13. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear according to claim 10, wherein:
the two tightening quarters are assembled to the liner by stitching.

Claim 14. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein:
the longitudinal assembly seam and the substantially vertical assembly seam are both
stitched seams.

Claim 15. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein:
the bottom assembly comprises an outer sole.

Claim 16. (*Currently Amended*) An article of footwear ~~according to claim 1, wherein~~
comprising:

an upper;

a bottom assembly;

the upper comprising a liner assembled together along a first longitudinal assembly seam and a second vertical or substantially vertical assembly seam, both said seams being arranged on a lateral side of the shoe upper of the article of footwear and being the only seams for assembling the liner together;

the liner ~~[[is]]~~ being an integral part of the article of footwear, fixed against removal for wear separate from the article of footwear.

Claim 17. (*Currently Amended*) An article of footwear ~~according to claim 1, wherein~~
comprising:

an upper;

a bottom assembly;

the upper comprising a liner assembled together along a first longitudinal assembly seam and a second vertical or substantially vertical assembly seam, both said seams being arranged on a lateral side of the shoe upper of the article of footwear and being the only seams for assembling the liner together;

the liner ~~[[is]]~~ being stitched in placed as an integral part of the article of footwear.

Claim 18. (*Currently Amended*) An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein:

the liner is a slipper including a vamp and a sole.

Claim 19. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear comprising:

a bottom assembly including an outer sole;

an upper comprising:

a liner, said liner having a vamp and a sole and being fixed with regard to other parts of the article of footwear against withdrawal from the article of footwear;

the sole of the liner having a periphery;

a first predetermined length of the periphery of the sole of the liner being made as one piece with the vamp, said predetermined length being located only on a medial side of the article of footwear;

a second predetermined length of the periphery extending along a lateral side of the article of footwear and being stitched to the vamp at a first assembly seam;

the liner being further assembled together by means of a second assembly seam, said second assembly seam comprising an upwardly extending stitching on the lateral side of the article of footwear;

the liner being assembled together only by means of the first and second assembly seams;

a tightening system assembled to said liner for tightening the article of footwear to a foot of a wearer.

Claim 20. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear according to claim 19, wherein:

said tightening system comprises a lacing system.

Claim 21. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear according to claim 19, wherein:

said liner further comprises an elongated opening in an area of the article of footwear for passage of a foot of a wearer of the article of footwear, said area corresponding to a top of the foot of the wearer;

said tightening system including laces extending in a lacing pattern over said elongated opening.

Claim 22. (*Currently Amended*) An article of footwear comprising:

a bottom assembly;

an upper comprising:

an inner layer comprising an extensible, ventilated, textile material;

and

an outer protective covering layer positioned over said extensible, ventilated textile material at a front section of the upper, said outer protective cover layer comprising a fine mesh lattice material for preventing penetration of foreign material to said extensible, ventilated, textile material.

Claim 23. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear according to claim 22, wherein:

said front section of the upper extends from a front end at least through an area of the upper for passage of the foot of the wearer of the article of footwear, said area corresponding to a top of the wearer's foot.

Claim 24. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear according to claim 22, wherein:

said outer protective cover layer is made of a nondeformable material.

Claim 25. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear according to claim 22, wherein:
said outer protective cover layer is made of NYLON.

Claim 26. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear according to claim 22, further comprising:

a reinforcing gusset assembled to the upper in a heel zone, said gusset extending forwardly on lateral and medial sides of the article of footwear toward the outer protective covering layer.

Claim 27. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear according to claim 22, further comprising:

a reinforcing gusset assembled to the upper in a heel zone, said gusset extending forwardly on lateral and medial sides of the article of footwear to the outer protective covering layer.

Claim 28. (*New*) An article of footwear according to claim 22, wherein:

said extensible, ventilated, textile material of said inner layer comprises a vamp and a sole, said material extending rearwardly to a heel zone of the article of footwear.

Claim 29. (*New*) An article of footwear according to claim 22, wherein:

on a medial side of the upper, no seam extends upwardly from the bottom assembly through said extensible, ventilated, textile material of the upper.

Claim 30. (*New*) An article of footwear according to claim 28, wherein:

on a medial side of the upper, no seam extends upwardly from the bottom assembly through said extensible, ventilated, textile material of the upper.

Claim 31. (*New*) An article of footwear according to claim 28, further comprising:

a heel strap extending over said rear portion of said extensible, ventilated, textile material, said heel strap extending rearwardly and upwardly on each of lateral and medial sides of the upper.

Claim 32. (*New*) An article of footwear according to claim 22, wherein:

said extensible, ventilated, textile material of said inner layer is adapted to enclose toes of a wearer, includes a sole, and extends rearwardly to an area behind a heel of the wearer.

Claim 33. (*New*) An article of footwear according to claim 32, wherein:

on a medial side of the upper, no seam extends upwardly from the bottom assembly through said extensible, ventilated, textile material of the upper.

Claim 34. (*New*) An article of footwear according to claim 32, further comprising:

a heel strap extending over said rear portion of said extensible, ventilated, textile material, said heel strap extending rearwardly and upwardly on each of lateral and medial sides of the upper.

Claim 35. (*New*) An article of footwear according to claim 22, wherein:

the liner is an integral part of the article of footwear, fixed against removal for wear separate from the article of footwear.

Claim 36. (*New*) An article of footwear according to claim 22, wherein:

the liner is stitched in placed as an integral part of the article of footwear.

Claim 37. (*New*) An article of footwear according to claim 22, wherein:
said bottom assembly includes an outer sole.

Claim 38. (*New*) An article of footwear according to claim 37, further comprising:
an inner sole beneath the upper and above the outer sole.

Claim 39. (*New*) An article of footwear according to claim 38, wherein:
no inner sole is positioned inside the upper.

Claim 40. (*New*) An article of footwear according to claim 11, wherein:
no inner sole is positioned inside the upper.

Claim 41. (*New*) An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein:
said vertical or substantially vertical assembly seam is not on a medial side of the
upper.

Claim 42. (*New*) An article of footwear according to claim 16, wherein:
said vertical or substantially vertical assembly seam is not on a medial side of the
upper.

Claim 43. (*New*) An article of footwear according to claim 17, wherein:
said vertical or substantially vertical assembly seam is not on a medial side of the
upper.

Claim 44. (*New*) An article of footwear according to claim 18, wherein:
said vamp and said sole of said liner are embodied as a one-piece construction.

Claim 45. (*New*) An article of footwear according to claim 44, wherein:

on said lateral side of said upper, said vamp is attached to said sole by means of said longitudinal assembly seam between a free edge of said sole of said slipper and a lower edge of said vamp.

Claim 46. (*New*) An article of footwear according to claim 18, wherein:

on said lateral side of said upper, said vamp is attached to said sole by means of said longitudinal assembly seam between a free edge of said sole of said slipper and a lower edge of said vamp.

Claim 47. (*New*) An article of footwear according to claim 46, further comprising:

a comfort tongue attached to said upper in an area above a foot of a wearer of the article of footwear.

Claim 48. (*New*) An article of footwear comprising:

an upper comprising a medial side and a lateral side;

a bottom assembly attached to said upper, said bottom assembly comprising an outer sole;

the upper comprising a liner assembled together only along two seams, said two seams consisting of the following:

a first seam comprising a longitudinal assembly seam extending along said lateral side of said upper; and

a second seam comprising a vertical assembly seam or a substantially vertical assembly seam, said second seam being on said lateral side of said upper.

Claim 49. (*New*) An article of footwear according to claim 48, wherein:

the liner is assembled together along said two seams to form a slipper including a vamp and a sole;

a single piece of material comprises both said vamp and said sole.

Claim 50. (*New*) An article of footwear having a medial side and a lateral side, said article of footwear comprising:

a bottom assembly comprising an outer sole;

a slipper assembled to said bottom assembly, said slipper comprising:

a single piece of material comprising a vamp part of the slipper and a sole part of the slipper, said single piece of material being continuous between the sole and the vamp along a predetermined length of a periphery of the sole, said predetermined length extending along the medial side of the article of footwear and not along the lateral side of the article of footwear;

an upper edge extending behind a heel of a foot of a wearer of the article of footwear.

Claim 51. (*New*) An article of footwear according to claim 50, wherein:

the slipper comprises an upper for housing the foot of the wearer, said vamp comprising at least a part of the upper;

a remainder of the periphery of the sole is connected to the upper by means of a slipper assembly seam extending from a first end of said predetermined length of the periphery of the sole to a second end of said predetermined length of the periphery of the sole;

said single piece of material encircles the foot of the wearer, said single piece of material having only one upwardly extending assembly seam, said upwardly extending assembly seam extending upwardly from the periphery of the sole of the slipper on the lateral side of the article of footwear.

Claim 52. (*New*) An article of footwear according to claim 50, wherein:

said single piece of material is a textile material.